ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI
WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
SHIZU YAMAUCHI

WHOA!

I REALLY LOVE BAKING. WILL YOU BE MY TASTE TESTER?

NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO GOOD AT MAKIN' COOKIES, AOI!

CHAPTER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE'S SHINE

SO GOOD!

OH, PLEASE ...

MAKIN' HOMEMADE COOKIES... NOW THAT'S REAL FEMININE APPEAL!

COUGH

HOW'D YOUR KABUKI DATE WITH HOLMES-SAN GO?

never got to ask

SPEAKIN' OF FEMININE APPEAL...

THAT... THAT WASN'T A DATE.

HOLMES-SAN WANTED TO TEACH ME ABOUT TRADITIONAL PERFORMING ARTS.

IT WAS JUST A LEARNING EXPERI-ENCE.

YA DON'T SAY?

BUT I HAD THE WRONG IDEA.

TO BE HONEST ...

I GUESS I KIND OF GOT MY HOPES UP.

ALL SORTS OF THINGS CROSSED MY MIND...

THE WRONG IDEA?

HMM...

I THOUGHT HE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ME, BUT...

AS IT TURNED OUT, HE JUST WANTED TO THANK ME FOR EVERY-THING.

THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?

DUNNO.

GUESS YOU'LL BE SPENDING CHRIST-MAS...

...AT KURA AGAIN THIS YEAR, HUH?

WH-WHAT?

SOMETHIN' ELSE UP?

...

YOU'RE SCARIN' ME HERE...

FWIP

I-IS THAT HOLMES-SAN?!

Liked by xxxx

#北山通り #Kitayamadori

#イケメンカフェ #HunkCafe

YOU SEE, UEDA-SAN JUST OPENED IT ON KITAYAMA DORI...

HUNK CAFÉ ?!

WH- WHAT IN THE WORLD ?!

I WANNA MAKE IT A HUNK CAFÉ!

BASICALLY A REGULAR DESSERT CAFÉ,

BUT GET THIS—WE HAVE EYE CANDY TOO! THE STAFF IS ALL HUNKY GUYS!

I... I SEE...

A... HUNK CAFÉ?

SO I WAS HOPIN' TO ASK YOU, HOLMES.

PLEASE! JUST FOR A WEEK!

BLUNT

NO.

BE MY CAFÉ'S POSTER BOY, WOULD YA?

Hey, don't be so quick to refuse!

PERSONALITY ASIDE, YOUR LOOKS COULD REALLY REEL 'EM IN!

AND ONCE THEY'RE IN THE DOOR, THE GOOD FOOD'LL KEEP 'EM COMIN' BACK!

I'M BEGGIN' YA! BE MY PANDA TO DRAW IN CUSTOM-ERS!

Kindly refrain from comparing me to a panda.

I HAVE MY OWN SHOP TO LOOK AFTER, YOU KNOW.

FWISH

THAT'S JUST IT!

CHRISTMAS, HOT GUYS, AN' TASTY SWEETS! IT'S JUST PERFECT, RIGHT?

THE GIRLS'RE GONNA GO NUTS OVER IT!

BESIDES...

AREN'T YOU OPENING DURING CHRISTMAS-TIME?

BUT...

GLANCE

...

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS.

I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP OUT HERE WHILE YOU'RE GONE.

I... SEE.

SEE? AOI-CHAN'S WILLING TO HELP!

RIGHT ?!

...VERY WELL.

AS YOU'VE BEEN A WONDERFUL PATRON, UEDA-SAN,

I ACCEPT.

ALL RIGHT! THANKS A BUNCH, HOLMES !

GOIN' TO A NICE CAFÉ FULL OF HOT GUYS ON CHRISTMAS DOES SOUND PRETTY NICE...

HEDA-SAN'S A SMART GUY.

IT'S REALLY GETTING POPULAR, AS YOU CAN SEE.

SO HOLMES-SAN IS WORKING THE CAFÉ FOR CHRISTMAS?

WHEN I SEE HIM LIKE THIS...

I'D THOUGHT WE'D GOTTEN REALLY CLOSE AFTER SO LONG...

BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER AT WORK.

SO I'M GOING TO STOP ASSUMING THINGS, AND JUST ADMIRE HIM FROM AFAR LIKE ANY OTHER FANGIRL.

HOLMES-SAN REALLY DOES CATCH YOUR EYE.

HE'S GENTLEMANLY AND KIND TO EVERYONE, TOO.

HUH?

SO, WHAT'RE YOU BAKIN' COOKIES FOR?

YOU'RE GONNA GIVE 'EM TO HOLMES-SAN FOR CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?

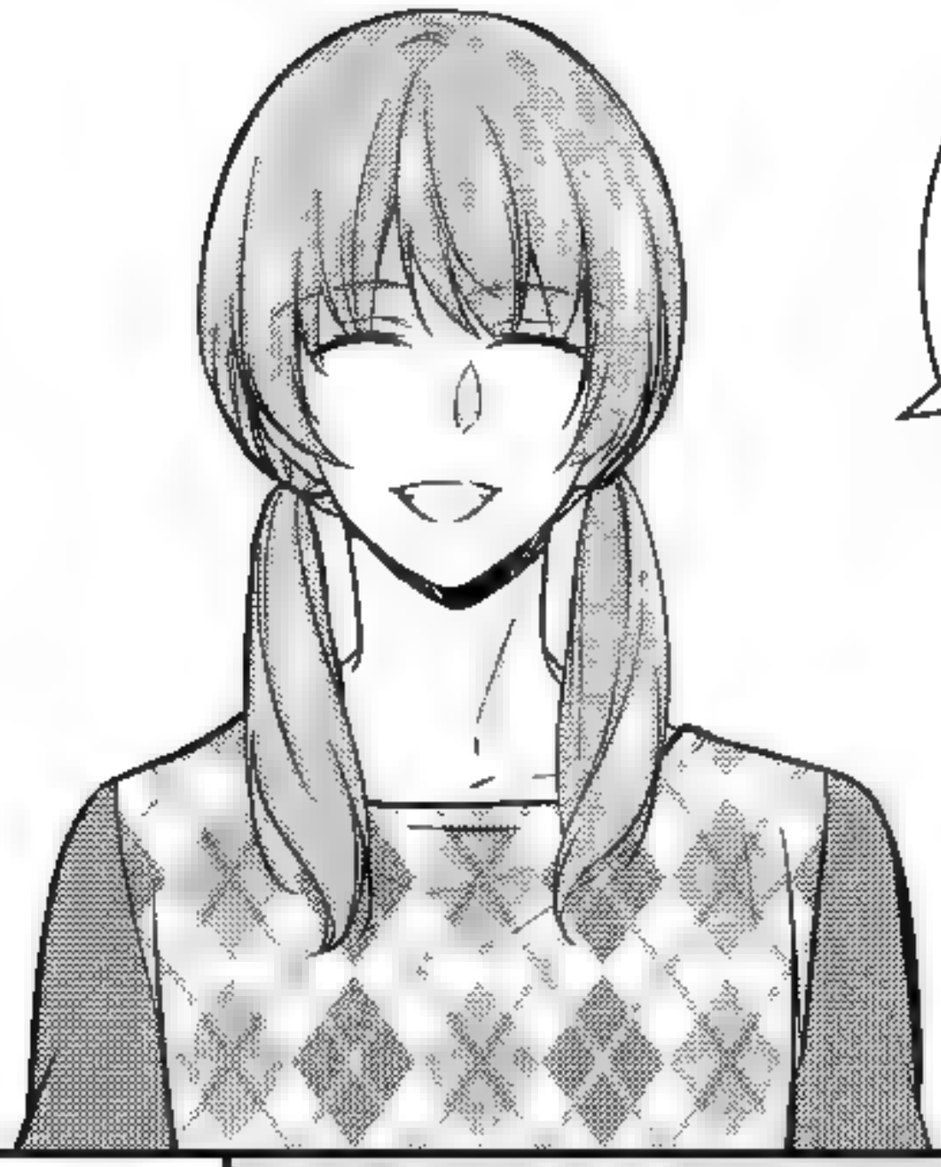
WELL...

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A THANK-YOU... ...FOR EVERYTHING HE'S DONE FOR ME.

SO I MADE SOME FOR HOLMES-SAN, AND SOME FOR THE MANAGER TOO.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?



I'VE ALREADY HAD MY FILL OF HEARTBREAK.

December 24th

WELL, IF I CAN'T GIVE HIM HIS PRESENT, THEN SO BE IT...

I SAID ALL THAT TO KAORI...

BUT I HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN THE SHOP TODAY,

SO THE CAFÉ WILL BE CLOSED BY THE TIME I DROP BY.

YEAH.

AOI-SAN.

YES?

WHY DON'T WE CLOSE UP NOW?

HUH?

B-BUT WE HAVE THIRTY MINUTES LEFT...

And thanks for the cookies.

SO RUN ALONG AND ENJOY YOURSELF.

NOBODY'S GOING TO VISIT AN ANTIQUE SHOP ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.

CHRISTMAS EVE ONLY COMES ONCE A YEAR, YOU KNOW?

I ENDED UP HERE AFTER ALL...

I'LL JUST SEE IF I CAN CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM WORKING.

AND IF I GET A CHANCE TO HAND HIM THE COOKIES...

NO...
I'D
BETTER
GO.

AOI-SAN?

YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE ME?

I, UM...

I...
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU WORKING.

I SEE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

I hope I didn't interrupt anything...

OH, THEY'RE FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL.
THEY WERE JUST LEAVING, SO IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

UM... WHO WERE THOSE GIRLS?

THEY'RE ENTIRELY OBSESSED WITH SWEETS.
WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT THIS CAFÉ, THEY INSISTED ON COMING.

AND THEY MADE FUN OF MY UNIFORM WHILE THEY WERE AT IT.

THAT'S WHY I SHOULDN'T MAKE ASSUMP-TIONS.

HOLMES-SAN IS SO NICE...

AND NOT JUST TO ME.

U-UM...

I ALSO WANTED TO GIVE YOU THESE.

AND YOU DO SO MUCH FOR ME, SO...

They're just... an expression of my thanks.

I LIKE MAKING COOKIES, AND I THINK I'M PRETTY GOOD AT IT.

MY
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT
TO YOU!

あかん？
"HECK"?

OH HECK...

ARE HOMEMADE COOKIES THAT IMPRES-SIVE?!

UM, IT'S REALLY NOTHING SPECIAL!

JUST A TOKEN OF MY APPRE-CIATION...

I GAVE THEM TO EVERY-BODY!

TO EVERY-BODY...?

WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'LL TREASURE THEM.

I SEE... BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME, THEN.

OKAY.

AH, I KNOW.

WHY DON'T YOU DROP IN ON THE CAFÉ?

IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY LATE, SO I'D BETTER GO.

AOI-SAN.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

...WHAT'LL I DO?

CHAPTER 24
END